

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

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AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: MEETING OF COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND CULTURAL
RELATIONS. JANUARY 24, 1975

REF: A. USNATO 6435
B. A-006 OF JANUARY 16, 1975

SUMMARY: BELGIAN REP REPORTS ON BRUSSELS DEMONSTRATION AGAINST
BELGIAN PURCHASE OF F-104 AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT. COMMITTEE DEFERS
DECISION ON 1975 INFORMATION BUDGET BREAKDOWN. DIRECTOR OF
INFORMATION SOLICITS INFORMATION FROM MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE,
ALSO ASKS THAT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES BE REMINDED OF DEADLINE
FOR NATO RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS. FRENCH INSIST THAT NEW
INFORMATION SERVICE NEWSLETTER APPEAR IN FRENCH AS WELL
AS ENGLISH. END SUMMARY.

I. ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA

1. BELGIAN DELEGATE REPORTED ON DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN
BRUSSELS JANUARY 12 AGAINST BELGIUM'S PLANNED PURCHASE OF REPLACE-
MENT FOR F-104 AIRCRAFT. OTHER THEN POINTS WHICH HAD ALREADY
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APPEARED IN PRESS, FOLLOWING WERE OF INTEREST:

A. COST OF DEMONSTRATION ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 800,000 AND
1,000,000 BELGIAN FRANCS (I.E., BETWEEN 22,000 AND 28,000 DOLLARS).

B. NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ESTIMATED AT BETWEEN 6,000 (POLICE ESTIMATE) AND 15,000 (ORGANIZERS' ESTIMATE).

C. THERE WERE NO VIOLENT INCIDENTS DURING DEMONSTRATION, WHICH BELGIAN REPRESENTATIVE ATTRIBUTED TO GENERAL LACK OF UNITY AND ENTHUSIASM ON PART OF DEMONSTRATORS, WHICH WAS CAUSED BY FACT THAT PARTICIPATING GROUPS WERE VERY DIFFERENT IN POLITICAL ORIENTATION AND IN MANY CASES ESPOUSED COUSES TOTALLY UNRELATED TO MAIN THEME OF DEMONSTRATION.

2. DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION KOREN, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SUGGESTED THAT SINCE IN PAST YEAR THERE HAD BEEN SO FEW CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER AGENDA ITEM "ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA", THAT THIS HEADING BE BROADENED SO AS TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF PUBLIC OPINION IN INDIVIDUAL NATO COUNTRIES ON NATO-RELATED ISSUES. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO BROADEN THIS AGENDA ITEM SO THAT IN FUTURE IT WOULD BE KNOWN AS "NATO INFORMATION PROBLEMS INCLUDING ANTI-WESTERN PROPAGANDA". CHAIRMAN WILL INVITE TWO COUNTRIES TO REPORT ON SITUATION IN THEIR COUNTRIES IN MARCH AND WILL INVITE THE OTHER COUNTRIES TO GIVE REPORTS AT OTHER TIMES DURING COMING YEAR.

II. INFORMATION BUDGET 1975.

3. KOREN REQUESTED COMMITTEE APPROVAL OF BREAKDOWN OF THE 61 MILLION BF WHICH HAS BEEN BUDGETED FOR INFORMATION EXPENDITURES FOR 1975. PROPOSED BREAKDOWN HAD BEEN CIRCULATED TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS THREE DAYS EARLIER (FIGURES ARE IN BELGIAN FRANCS):

ITEM	1974 CREDITS 1975 PROPOSALS
4111 VISITS, YOUTH AND SEMINARS	16,388,000 19,968,000
4113 SPECIAL PROJECTS (AWARDS FOR SPORTS AND OTHER COMPETITIONS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE	90,000 75,000

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AT NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY
COMMANDS)

4121 NATO REVIEW	10,515,000 11,000,000
4122 NON-PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS	7,000,000 7,257,000
4123 TV RADIO FILMS	13,000,000 13,000,000
4124 PHOTOS AND VISUAL AIDS	2,500,000 2,000,000
4131 ATLANTIC TREATY ASSOCIATION	3,000,000 3,075,000

RQEWSPECIAL FUNDS (SEMINARS AND 1,800,000 833,000

4200 CULTURAL PROGRAM (NATO 3,112,000 3,112,000
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS)

4300 ICELAND (COST OF INFORMATION 595,000 680,000
OFFICE IN REYKJAVIK)

TOTAL 58,000,000 61,000,000

4. FRANCE AND CANADA SAID THAT THEY HAD TO SUBMIT THESE FIGURES TO THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES BEFORE THEY COULD GIVE THEIR APPROVAL. FRENCH REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WOULD SEE THESE PROPOSALS IN MORE FAVOURABLE LIGHT IF CULTURAL PROGRAM HAD BEEN GIVEN AT LEAST A MODEST INCREASE FOR INFLATION. OTHER REPRESENTATIVES HAD QUESTIONS ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROPOSAL.

5. KOREN SAID THAT PROPOSAL REFLECTED PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED BY NATIONAL INFORMATION OFFICIALS AT THEIR ANNUAL MEETINGS AND SUGGESTED THAT AS LONG AS THESE PRIORITIES WERE RESPECTED, IT WOULD NOT BE FRUITFUL FOR COMMITTEE TO GET INTO LONG DISCUSSION OF DETAILS. KOREN'S APPEAL WAS SUPPORTED BY UK, NETHERLANDS AND US REPS.

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III. FOLLOW-UP TO 1974 CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF INFORMATION SECTIONS IN MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE.

6. KOREN URGED COMMITTEE TO ELICIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE THE FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION THAT HE HAD REQUESTED FROM MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE.
(REF. B)

IV. OTHER BUSINESS.

7. KOREN SUGGESTED THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS REMIND THEIR NATIONAL AUTHORITIES THAT APPLICATIONS FOR NATO RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR COMING YEAR SHOULD ARRIVE AT NATO BY END OF JANUARY OR MID-FEBRUARY AT LATEST.

8. FRENCH REP REFERRED TO NEW NATIS PUBLICATION CALLED "FOR YOUR FILES", NEWSLETTER BY WHICH NATO INFORMATION OFFICIALS COMMUNICATE CURRENT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS TO INFORMATION OFFICERS AT NATO MILITARY COMMANDS. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO REMIND THE INFORMATION SERVICE THAT THERE ARE TWO WORKING LANGUAGES AT NATO--ENGLISH AND FRENCH--AND THAT PUBLICATION OF THIS

DOCUMENT IN ENGLISH ONLY WAS CLEAR DISREGARD OF THIS PRINCIPLE. BELGIAN AND CANADIAN REPS SUPPORTED THIS POSITION.

9. KOREN SAID THAT "FOR YOUR FILES" WAS IN EXPERIMENTAL STAGE AND WAS UNOFFICIAL PUBLICATION, THAT IT COULD BE BEST REGARDED AS AN IN-HOUSE LETTER FROM INFORMATION OFFICIALS AT NATO HEADQUARTERS TO THEIR COUNTERPARTS AT NATO MILITARY COMMANDS. HE SAID THAT CONSIDERATION HAD BEEN GIVEN TO PUTTING THIS LETTER OUT IN FRENCH ALSO BUT THAT MILITARY INFORMATION OFFICERS HAD INDICATED NO NEED TO HAVE THIS IN FRENCH, THAT PUTTING IT INTO FRENCH WOULD ENTAIL EXTRA COST AND WOULD CREATE DELAY FOR A DOCUMENT, ONE OF WHOSE IMPORTANT VALUES WAS TIMELINESS.

10 FRENCH REP INSISTED THAT NEXT ISSUE OF "FOR YOUR FILES" MUST APPEAR IN FRENCH AS WELL AS ENGLISH.

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11. AFTER WAITING IN VAIN FOR SOME OTHER COUNTRY TO SUPPORT KOREN POSITION, US REP SAID THAT HE WAS SPEAKING WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD THE IMPRESSION FROM HIS OWN EXPERIENCE THAT THE WORKING LANGUAGE IN THE INFORMATION SECTIONS AT NATO INTEGRATED MILITARY COMMANDS WAS IN ALMOST ALL CASES ENGLISH. HE SAID THAT SINCE THE MILITARY INFORMATION OFFICERS FOR WHOM "FOR YOUR FILES" WAS PRODUCED HAD NOT EXPRESSED THE NEED TO HAVE IT IN FRENCH, IT SEEMED INEFFICIENT AND FORMALISTIC FOR THE COMMITTEE TO INSIST ON IT. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT SAY NOR IMPLY THAT THE U.S. IN ANY WAY WAS INSISTING THAT THE PUBLICATION BE IN ENGLISH ONLY.

12. FRENCH REP SAID THAT THIS WAS AN IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND THAT IF "FOR YOUR FILES" DID NOT APPEAR IN FRENCH AS WELL AS ENGLISH THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTY WITH FRENCH AUTHORITIES.

FRENCH AMBASSADOR MIGHT RAISE ISSUE AT PERMREPS' LUNCH OR EVEN
AT COUNCIL. KOREN SAID THAT HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
ACCEDE TO THIS REQUEST.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 14.

14. ACTION REQUESTED:

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A. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE REPLY TO KOREN REQUEST FOR
FOLLOW-UP INFORMATION TO 1974 CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF INFORMATION
SECTIONS IN MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE (REQUEST TRANSMITTED TO
DEPARTMENT BY USNATO UNDER COVER OF REF. B).

B. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS ASKED TO REMIND CONFERENCE BOARD
OF DEADLINE FOR FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS. (SEE PARA 7 ABOVE.)

C. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS ASKED TO SEND BY FEBRUARY 13 ANY
COMMENTS OR GUIDANCE ON FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(1) INFORMATION BUDGET (SEE PARAS 3, 4, 5 ABOVE.)

(2) FRENCH DEMAND THAT "FOR YOUR FILES" BE IN FRENCH AS
WELL AS ENGLISH. (SEE PARAS 8, 9, 10 11, 12 ABOVE.)

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